

PATROL NEWS

January/February 2019

"Over 85 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION"



Cover story on page 3.

From the Staff ...

Lieutenant Colonel Eric T. Olson, Q/ASO
Acting Superintendent



Patrol employees have to be the most generous group of state employees. When I looked back on 2018, I lost count of the examples of your compassion and giving. It is most evident during the holidays, when there are so many of you taking part in holiday family adoptions, toy drives, food drives, shopping with a hero events, the Blue Notes choir, etc. I believe these types of events are truly important.

But, I'm referring to more than that. The Patrol family is generous constantly; they respond whenever there is a need. Throughout the year, Patrol employees have supported the Food Pantry's Buddy Program, Special Learning Center, Special Olympics Missouri, Badge of Honor Run, Central Missouri Foster Care Adoption Association, People For Paws, St. Jude's Children's Research, Jefferson City Samaritan Center, and many more. Last year, employees in Troop I learned several of their co-workers were burdened with medical bills due to serious illness. The troop came together, held a fundraiser, and provided some financial assistance to each of these families.

In addition to physical donations are the time and talents Patrol employees share with volunteer organizations and in our churches and communities. I think it's safe to say that most Patrol employees look outside themselves and that their lives regularly reflect their personal answer to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when he reflected, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

Our employees are part of food pantries, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, community choirs or symphonies, youth sports teams, Boys & Girls Club, Big Brothers/Sisters, HALO International, Operation Bugle Boy, etc. The list of organizations that benefit from the time and talents of Patrol employees is endless. You answer Dr. King's question every day, both professionally and personally. I am proud to serve as acting superintendent for such an outstanding group of individuals.

In this column over the years, members of the Patrol's Command Staff have thanked our co-workers and pointed out that we feel the MSHP has the best employees in state government. We mean that. You are innovative, intelligent, and service-oriented. You may or may not have the Core Values memorized, but day-in and day-out, you are a living example of them. Your intentional generosity is humbling. It serves as a living testament to you and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Eric T. Olson

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Celebrating Over 50 Years Of News

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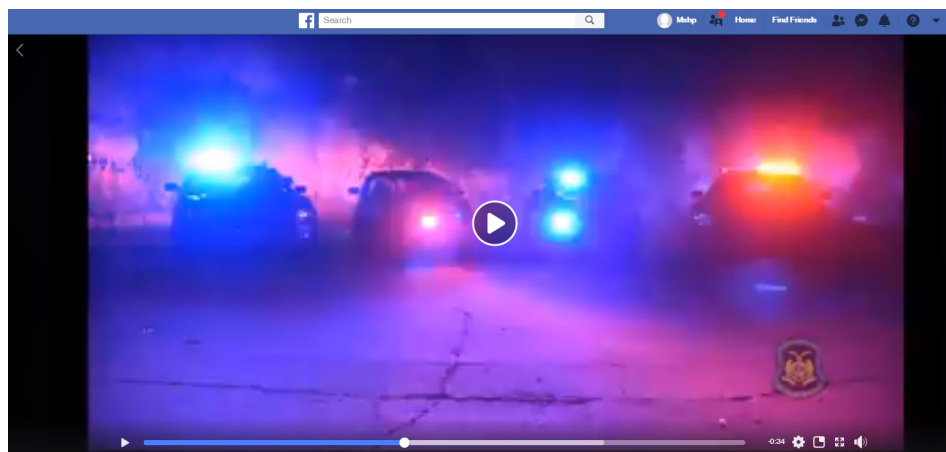
PATROL NEWS

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"Over 85 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION"

Volume 53 • Number 4

Social Media Snapshot



Merry Christmas

Missouri State Highway Patrol Follow

377K Views · about 2 weeks ago

The Missouri State Highway Patrol wants to be the first to wish you a safe and Merry Christmas!



This issue's social media snapshot shows pictures of the Patrol's Christmas video, which was posted on Facebook on December 17, 2018. Produced by the Public Information & Education Division, the one-minute video shows four vehicles' lights turning on and off in time with Trans-Siberian Orchestra's "Dreams of Fireflies." The video ended with a holiday wish and traffic safety message. The posting was immensely popular and garnered 377,000+ views, 5,000+ reactions, 498 comments, and 8,808 shares.

Cover

Sgt. R. Brooks McGinnis, Troop A, helps a little one choose a toy at the Ronald McDonald House in Kansas City, MO, as part of the 16th Annual Trooper Michael Newton Toy Drive.

N-DEx Connects Agencies, Enhances Background Investigations

By Comp. Info. Tech. I Michelle Frey, Q/CJISD

In late 2017, the CJIS Division developed a plan to begin submitting Missouri State Highway Patrol reports on a regular basis to the National Data Exchange. The N-DEx system is a secure, unclassified, free, national information sharing system that allows criminal justice/law enforcement agencies across the nation, to search, link, and analyze records that have been submitted by criminal justice agencies. The N-DEx system provides access to over 775 million searchable records from more than 7,200 criminal justice agencies across the nation. N-DEx also contains records from several federal agencies.

Beginning in January 2018, the process began to identify what types of reports MSHP could submit that would be relevant, but would also not jeopardize the safety and security of any ongoing investigations. Once the reports were identified, the fields within each report were matched with a corresponding field accepted by the FBI. In April 2018, the CJIS Division received approval to begin the application development phase to submit to N-DEx using the reports and data elements identified by the various divisions responsible for management of the data.

Consensus was that by submitting MSHP data to N-DEx, we were helping to do our part in aiding fellow criminal justice and law enforcement agencies.

After receiving approval, a CJIS Application Development team began to code the appropriate fields to pull data from the Automated Field Reporting Repository and process into the N-DEx required XML format. Each report number is formatted into its own record to be submitted to N-DEx. In the fall 2018, a one-time data load was completed for all AFR citation records. This submission uploaded 1.4 million historical citation records to the FBI's secure file transfer protocol server. The Application Development team had to break the 1.4 million records into batches in order for the records to be processed by the FBI. After the upload of historical records, the application development team built a nightly process which submitted any records approved and committed during the day. The next phase of the project will include analysis and development work to add additional reports, such as arrest and incident reports, to this process.

The MSHP is aiding in officer

safety and investigation through the sharing of information with N-DEx. For instance, one piece of information we have may be the lead needed to solve an investigation in another state

In March 2018, a successful outcome in Missouri occurred when a pre-employment check was conducted on a potential criminal justice employee. The applicant was searched in N-DEx and was found to have a known association with an offender currently in custody at a criminal justice institution. Further investigation revealed the applicant most likely wanted to gain a position at the institution to bring contraband in for his associate. Due to the record in the N-DEx system providing information, further investigation was initiated leading to additional background information being discovered. This led to the applicant's removal from the hiring process. Without the N-DEx system hit, the applicant may have been employed.

Patrol employees understand the importance of sharing criminal justice information and how doing so provides valuable data to other agencies. This philosophy will result in the MSHP soon being Missouri's largest contributor of criminal justice data to N-DEx.

PRESENTING: THE 2018 BLUE NOTES CHOIR!

The 2018 Blue Notes Choir took the gift of Christmas music to eight area nursing homes and performed at the General Headquarters Christmas luncheon. This photograph was taken at the Holts Summit Villa, in Holts Summit, MO. Employees use their lunch hours to practice twice a week during October and November, and all performances occur in December. Pictured are: (1 to r, seated) Technician III Adrean J. Smart, Q/PRD; Accountant II Brittany A. Dolweck, Q/DDCC; Technician II Andi Hoskins, Q/PRD; Quality Control Clerk II Amanda M. Hicks, Q/VED; (second row) Captain David P. Perkins (director), Q/DED; Clerk IV Carla J. Flickinger, Q/MVID; Quality Control Clerk I Becky A. Van Ostran, Q/VED; Clerk IV Jenn J. Canaday, Q/DED; Fiscal & Budgetary Analyst I Candi Pettit, Q/CLD; Special Assistant Theresa M. Backes, Q/HRD; Information Analyst I Sarah K. Cooksey, Q/PRD; Procurement Officer Donna F. Pollard, Q/BPD; (third row) Leasing/Contracts Coordinator Lisa C. Luecke, Q/BPD (now retired); DE Chief Cheryl S. Bardwell, Q/DED; Information Analyst II Denise D. Tipton (accompanist), PRD; Clerk Typist I Kyrstin L. Keim, MVID; Technician II Tricia A. Faherty, CJISD; (fourth row) Sergeant Jerry G. Callahan, Q/HRD; Technician II Tracy M. Rademan, Q/PRD; Chief Oper. Roger D. Martin, Q/CommD; Computer Information Technologist II Brandon R. Blalock, Q/CJISD; and Computer Information Technician Specialist II Rich A. Falk, Q/CJISD. Thank you 2018 Blue Notes for serving as goodwill ambassadors for the Patrol!



CVO Gregory Recognized At Inspector Competition

Submitted By Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division

Our commercial vehicle inspectors are highly trained professionals who save lives every day by keeping unsafe commercial vehicles off Missouri's roadways. Each year, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance recognizes these professionals by inviting member jurisdictions throughout North America to participate in the North American Inspector Championship. This championship is the only event of its kind. Not only does the NAIC recognize these inspectors, it also promotes uniformity of inspections in North America through education. Inspectors attending the championship take part in competitive events and attend training on the latest safety information, technology, standards, and inspection procedures. They also have a valued opportunity to share ideas, techniques, and experiences with other inspectors.

During the 2018 NAIC, the conference included more specific training related to ELDs (electronic logging devices), agricultural commodity and

“The competition provided an opportunity for all of the contestants to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and ability in relation to all aspects of a commercial vehicle inspection, including Level I inspection, bulk and non-bulk hazardous material inspection, and a passenger vehicle inspection,” said CVO Sprv. II Whittington. “The event helps build relationships with other inspectors and agencies nationwide, both of which are valuable resources.”

personal conveyance hours of service exemptions, and new load securement devices.

The North American Inspectors Championship took place from August 15-18, 2018, in Columbus, OH.

Then-CVE Sprv. II (now CVO Sprv. II) Brandon S. Whittington, Q/CVED, and CVO II Jay L. Gregory, Troop G, represented the Missouri State Highway

Patrol. Then-CVE Sprv. II Whittington served as a judge in the motor coach and bulk package parts of the competition. (He did not judge any flights including CVO II Gregory.)

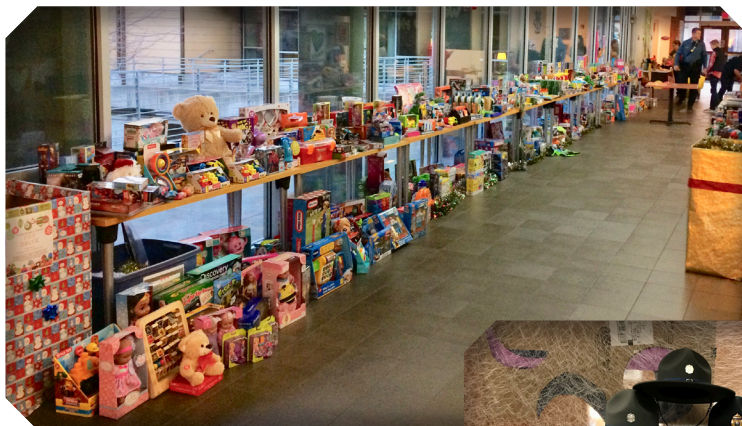
CVO II Gregory took part in all of the individual events. Those inspectors with the highest scores made up the “yellow team” and earned the Team Award. Along with CVO II Gregory, the yellow team included inspectors from British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Nebraska State

Patrol, New Mexico DPS, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Texas DPS, Utah DOT, Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles, and Washington State Patrol. Congratulations, CVO II Gregory!

Merry & Bright!

16th Annual Tpr. Michael Newton Toy Drive Brightens Holiday

By Sgt. Collin M. Stosberg, Troop A



This collection of toys illustrates the generosity of the citizens we serve, employees, and various sponsors of the Trooper Michael Newton Toy Drive. Troopers visited hospitalized children at University of Kansas Medical Center Pediatric Unit and delivered age appropriate gifts to each child.



Officers representing both the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Missouri State Highway Patrol volunteered to make the season brighter for the children at University of Kansas Medical Center and the Ronald McDonald House of Kansas City, MO. Approximately \$30,000 worth of toys were delivered.

RIGOROUS TRAINING PREPARES NEW DIVER

By Tpr. Brandon L. Butler, Troop D

I was asked to write about my perception of the drown proofing orientation and five-week new Dive Team member training. I ask the reader to acknowledge that I did not have any dive experience prior to new diver training.

On Thursday, July 19, 2018, three candidates and I showed up for drown proofing at the GHQ training tank. The experience was not pleasant, but it was beneficial. I gained a self-assessment of how I would handle stressful situations in the water, and the training provided instructors the same evaluation for each candidate. The GHQ training tank is a safe and confined area to perform the tasks we were assigned.

The trooper candidates were assigned a dive master mentor, and my mentor was Trooper Rob W. Garrett, Troop D. Dive Master Garrett has 10 years of service with the Dive Team. He was also a technical diver, which allows him to dive to deeper depths of 235 feet. Tpr. Garrett's experience and training has helped me throughout the training.

Four trooper candidates and two MoDOT divers started the new diver training in Pontiac, MO, at Bull Shoals Lake. Dive equipment was issued, and we were instructed how to set up our gear. After the gear was set up, we went straight to knowledge review. The training was fast-paced, and one must be a fast learner. The candidate must be able to adapt to the pace of the training program, as it does not slow down. After diving the second day, we went back to the classroom and completed the Bauer Compressor course. There was a lot to know about filling tanks and a lot of maintenance involved with the compressor, all of which was related to diver safety. Each candidate was given plenty of experience filling cylinders throughout the dive training course. The Dive Team has four compressors and it takes approximately 45 minutes to fill an empty cylinder. We were going through approximately 20 cylinders a day. The

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Welcome to the Dive Team! Pictured (l to r) are: Cpl. Jason Hurt, Troop I, Tpr. Colby Tierney, Troop I, and Tpr. Brandon Butler, Troop D. Both Cpl. Hurt and Tpr. Butler serve as marine operations troopers; Tpr. Tierney is assigned to Zone 9, Crawford County.

compressors ran late into the night each training day. In addition to filling cylinders, we made gear adjustments, cooked food for the group, and had to maintain gear and equipment.

The learning process included going over knowledge reviews in the classroom and then heading to the water and performing the skills. We learned how to transition from our primary air to our secondary air and how to utilize a dive buddy's secondary air supply. The first week ended with a final open water written exam and panic proofing dive exercises. The panic proofing exercises were mentally and physically demanding. During this exercise, I learned how my oxygen threshold is affected by mental and physical stressors. I was fortunate my ears weren't affected by the multiple dives.

The process of knowledge reviews and practicing what we learned continued for the next four weeks. Each week added more technical difficulty and each candidate was also given greater responsibility.

I had no dive experience going into this training. Information was provided to me as needed, which

made trainer engagement high. My abilities were tested and confirmed by the instructors immediately, which enhanced my training experience and helped to ensure I retained what I learned. The training started with six candidates and ended with five completing the training course. The training was a logistical nightmare; however, I did not experience any down time. The equipment and supplies needed to complete this task were vast. There was always something to do. Both the instructors and the candidates were extremely busy during this training.

There were different assistant dive master instructors who came every week and they were tasked with leading instructions and helping with equipment and logistics. This accelerated rapport building between current dive members and the new candidates. The candidates were aligned with their learning needs, abilities, and learning styles to achieve successful training. The variety of different instructors provided the best possible learning format. My personal strengths and

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weaknesses were identified, and the instructors developed strategies to push me, but not break me. As training progressed, it did become easier. We became faster and we became better. This was a result of the instructors identifying the benefits of each task we performed. The experience the Dive Team had and the knowledge they held was a great motivator. I was able to control my learning experience.

When we were given a training assignment, we were expected to come

up with a plan and execute it. We had to access the information as needed and apply what we had learned in real time. The candidates were continuously assessed, and I believe our performance gaps became smaller. We were critiqued and were told what needed improving. Dive mentors provided supplementary support.

I believe there are opportunities for me to grow and develop with Tpr. Garrett being my dive mentor. This training produced confidence within myself and the other candidates to dive safely within the hazardous conditions of Missouri waterways.

I would like to thank each member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol Dive Team for your time, knowledge, experience, dedication, service, trust, and the opportunity you have given me. Thank you, Lt. Mike A. Petlansky, Q/WPD, Sgt. Kurt C. Merseal, Q/WPD, Sgt. Charles W. Hoff, Q/WPD, Sgt. Chris L. Patton, Troop C, Cpl. Dean A. Bartlett, Troop F, Cpl. Adam D. Smith, Troop C, Cpl. Logan B. Monahan, Troop G, Cpl. Jason M. Hurt, Troop I, Tpr. Rob Garrett, Troop D, Tpr. Andy B. Ward, Troop D, Tpr. Steven R. Peterson, Troop B, Tpr. Billy Cole, Troop A, and Tpr. Colby W. Tierney, Troop I.

WHAT IS NEW DIVE TEAM MEMBER TRAINING?

By Tpr. Brandon L. Butler, Troop D

To provide readers a better understanding of dive training, I've listed the subjects and practical exercises the new divers were expected to master.

PRE-COURSE PREPARATION

In July 2018, candidates received nine manuals to complete prior to the course. We had to arrive the first day of training with each section and chapter review completed. It took 30 hours of study to complete the dive manual tasks.

Candidates completed the following manuals before the course:

- Open Water Dive
- Advanced Open Water Dive
- Search and Recovery
- Deep Diver
- Night Diver
- Dry Suit
- Enriched Air
- PADI O2 Provider
- Rescue Diver

DROWN PROOFING ORIENTATION

Orientation was demanding, and many exercises induced stress. I believe these tasks offered the candidate the opportunity of a self-evaluation, to see if one wanted to continue into the five-week new diver training. At the same time, this orientation allowed the instructors to determine if the candidate had what it takes to succeed in their five-week program.

The candidate's skill level was assessed in these areas:

- Swimming with a snorkel mask full of water
- Holding their breath and learning their limits while swimming underwater
- Buddy snorkel breathing
- Performing inverted sit-ups into the pool
- Butterfly kicks with a snorkel mask filled with water
- Treading water for long periods of time
- Bouncing off the bottom of the training tank for one minute with both ankles tied and hands tied behind their back

WATER SKILLS & STAMINA TEST

Each candidate successfully completed the timed water skills and stamina test prior to the new diver five-week training course. The water skills and stamina test consisted of the following:

- 400-Meter/Yard Swim (nonstop without swimming aids, any stroke or combination of stroke)
- 15 Minute Tread (Tread water, drown-proof, bob, or float using no aids and wearing only a swimsuit for 15 minutes, with hands (not arms) out of the water during the last two minutes.)
- 800-Meter/Yard Swim (Swim

800 meters/yards face down, using mask, snorkel, and fins; non-stop, without flotation aids and without using arms to swim.)

- 100 Meter/Yard Inert Diver Tow (Tow (or push) a diver for 100 meters/yards nonstop, at the surface, without assistance. Both divers are equipped in full scuba equipment.)

Week 1

On the second day of training, we performed several dives in Bull Shoals Lake. Visibility was not great, but I didn't know any better, having not ever dived before. Each candidate dove close to an instructor for safety purposes, and critiques began immediately.

- Equipment issue and set-up
- Book knowledge reviews, quizzes, and final exam
- Numerous confined and open water dives at Bull Shoals Lake
- Bauer air compressor class
- Entrapment survival class
- Dive Team policy review
- Risk management and assessments
- Tethered diving
- Panic proofing scenarios

Week 2

Bull Shoals Lake

- Introduction to full-faced Aga mask with underwater communications

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- Open water and confined water dives with Aga mask
- Knot training
- Search & recovery dive training
- Open water dives with Aga mask and transitions to regulator
- Introduction to search techniques
- Deep dives (deeper than 70')
- Night dives and class
- Dry suit dives and class
- Navigational dives with compass

Week 3 **Current River**

Beginning with week three, we performed tasks both with visibility and blacked out.

- Current River diving and class in Van Buren, MO
- Night diving in current
- Dry suit diving in current
- Heavy current diving with knotted rope
- 'Blacked out' current diving
- Brush diving
- 'Blacked out' brush diving
- Patrol Dive Team annual water skills test (AGA mask flooding and cleaning; AGA mask removal, recovery, replacement,

and clearing; air depletion exercise/buddy breathing; five-point descent; remove and replace weight system underwater; controlled emergency swimming ascent; remove and replace SCUBA unit underwater.)

Week 4 **Bull Shoals Lake**

Week four we were certified as rescue divers, oxygen providers, and deep divers.

- Padi O2 Provider (administering oxygen)
- Rescue diver knowledge review and tests
- Deep dive 110' using contour of bottom
- Multiple rescue diver exercises and scenarios
- Enriched air introduction and knowledge reviews
- Deep dive 120' with transition to regulator from Aga mask (We donned and removed our buoyancy control device, and transitioned between our primary and secondary air source.)
- Underwater criminal investigations class
- Search and recovery dives with investigation scenarios
- Open water dives in low visibility

Week 5 **Bull Shoals Lake**

The final week of training included lift operations. We lifted a helicopter with the use of lift bags, then we performed it again blacked out. The last day of training ended with a full-scale dive operation scenario. This is what we covered:

- Lift operations class and lift diving
- Vehicle rigging class
- Introduction to scanning sonar
- 'Blacked out' lift diving
- Open water diving with enriched air
- Night diving with enriched air
- Zero visibility search diving
- Tethered zero visibility search diving (large object)
- Tethered zero visibility search diving (small object)
- 'Blacked out' entrapment scenarios
- Deep dive 120' with transition to regulator
- Zero visibility free ascents from 80'
- Introduction to technical deep diving
- Final dive scenario: Dive callout through written dive report

Class Of 1962 Still Gathers

By Ret. Sgt. Larry D. Cooper

The group is getting smaller, but the annual reunions are a great time. Our 56th reunion took place on September 11, 2018, in Jefferson City, MO. Six members and their wives attended, and retired Sergeant Woody Aytes' widow, Rosella, joined us. It was a time of good food and great company. Five of the six members are pictured: Standing are retired Captains Shay E. East and David L. Cook; retired Sergeants Larry D. Cooper, Bill H. Patterson, and Myron C. Garrett are seated. Retired Sergeant M. Rex Barnett attended the reunion, but was not present when this photo was taken. This year, we'll be meeting in September in Carthage, MO, and being the one that lives there, I'll be making the arrangements.



A Gift From The Heart

Grazier Family Shares Book With Recruit Class

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb, Q/PIED

When I answered my phone that sunny day in September 2018, I was pleasantly surprised to hear the kind voice of Mrs. Betty Grazier, widow of Lieutenant George S. Grazier, greeting me. It had been a while since we'd spoken, so we spent a few moments catching up. This year marked the 10th anniversary of her husband publishing "And Then It Happened." This labor of love fulfilled his promise to a friend, Mrs. Helen Wulff, to tell the history of the shooting of Sergeant Benjamin O. Booth and her father, Sheriff Roger Wilson. The Graziers and the Wulffs met when George was assigned to Columbia, MO, in 1956. Also during that time, the Graziers met members of the Booth family. He became fascinated with the accounting of the June

14, 1933 tragedy, which took the lives of these two officers. He researched the details and shared this history with each recruit class for years before his retirement in 1990.

Mrs. Grazier had decided she wished to honor her husband's memory by providing each member of the current recruit class with a copy of "And Then It Happened." (Retired Lt. Grazier died unexpectedly, shortly after the book was published.) Over the next few weeks, with the help of her daughter, Cheryl, Betty's hope became a reality. On the night before graduation, members of the 106th Recruit Class received a letter from Mrs. Grazier and a copy of her husband's book at their banquet.

In her letter to the new troopers, Mrs. Grazier shared information about her husband's career and his writing of the book. She also thanked them for choosing to serve the citizens of Missouri as troopers. In closing, Mrs. Grazier wrote, "May God bless you all on your grand accomplishment; may you wear the 'Smokey blue' uniform with pride; and may you never forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the great state of Missouri."

On behalf of the 106th Recruit Class, the class commander sent this thank you to the *Patrol News*:

"Mrs. Betty Grazier: On behalf of the 106th Recruit Class, I would like to say thank you for donating your husband's book *And Then It Happened*," said Trooper Austin L. Royster, Troop A. "I greatly appreciate your generosity and devotion to supporting this organization. We look forward to reading his story. May God bless you and your wonderful family."

18 Residents Experience CAP

By Sgt. Eric F. Brown, Troop B

On November 12, 2018, 18 Troop B area residents completed a Community Alliance Program held at the Troop B Headquarters in Macon, MO. This was the 14th program of its type conducted at Troop B since 2001. The Community Alliance Program is a unique opportunity for citizens to gain insight and understanding of the training and many duties of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. It offers the participants an opportunity to interact with personnel from every division in Troop B.

During the program, the participants met at the Troop B Headquarters for 10 consecutive Monday evenings and received classroom and practical instruction on various topics including firearms, traffic stops, traffic crash and criminal investigations, and driving while intoxicated enforcement. Each year some of the participants' favorite nights, and the ones that cause them the most apprehension, are when they shoot on the indoor range and when they participate on the ride-along night.

The program also provides an opportunity for the members of Troop B



Congratulations to the participants in Troop B's 2018 Community Alliance Program for successfully completing the experience!

to interact with the public in a setting drastically different from their day-to-day duties. Most of the Troop B employees who assist with the program volunteer to talk to the participants about their job duties. Over the last 14 years, approximately 280 people have participated in Troop B's Community Alliance Program. Many of them asked to attend after hearing about the program from its past participants.

The program culminated with an awards ceremony, which was held at and sponsored by the Macon Comfort Inn. During the awards ceremony, participants received a plaque for their

participation. Participants of the 2018 Troop B Community Alliance Program were: Murrell and Jeanne Arnett, of Macon, MO; Reggie and Deborah Baker, of Excello, MO; Kayla Bridges, of Macon; Kristen Burks, of Macon; Tammy Cross, of Excello; Amy Denton, of Cairo, MO; Greg and Jenny Gabriel, of Macon; Bev Halley, of Macon; Joey Hedworth, of Bevier, MO; Erica Nobles, of Excello; Corie Pryor of Kirksville, MO; Denise Schisler, of Moberly, MO; Anna Smith, of Excello; Nicholas Telep of Kansas City, MO; and Bree Wells, of Macon, MO.

106TH RECRUIT CLASS GRADUATES

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb Q/PIED

A hush of anticipation swept across the crowd as soon as the Troop F Color Guard stepped into the room and lined up by the side wall. From there, it was a quick glance to the doorway to see the 106th Recruit Class was ready to enter the Academy gymnasium for graduation. The Patrol's Command staff was followed by several dignitaries and special guests, including Missouri Governor Michael L. Parson and First Lady Teresa Parson. Once the troop commanders and Academy instructors were in place, the time everyone was waiting for had arrived.

With the strong voice of (almost) Trooper Austin L. Royster setting the tempo, the recruits marched in to a cadence referencing their desire to become troopers and their families at home.

Minister Eric Bridges, Delray Christian Church, traveled far from home to provide the invocation and benediction at the ceremony. Min. Bridges' clear voice, graced with a

Sgt. Gary L. Davidson, Q/GD, proudly stands with his son, Tpr. Zachary D. Davidson. Sgt. Davidson retires January 1, 2019.



Tpr. Duncan Hughes prepares to sign his Oath of Office with the Honorable Roy L. Richter as witness.



The 106th Recruit Class salutes during the national anthem.

gentle West Virginia accent, thanked God for this day and the men who had accepted the call to become a trooper, then asked for Him to keep them safe.

His grandson, Blaine, was one of the new troopers.

Troop F's Color Guard provided the flag ceremony with decorum and



In his keynote address, Gov. Michael Parson told the new troopers to always remember they are public servants.



Tpr. Taylor K. Leftwich is pictured with his father, Lt. Gregory K. Leftwich, Troop C, after graduating from the Academy.

— GRADUATES

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respect, while Trooper Orry R. Baker, Troop C, sang the national anthem.

Director Sandra K. Karsten, Missouri Department of Public Safety, served as a special guest speaker and told the class, “You’ve heard much about the Patrol core values in the last 25 weeks and each of them have been woven into your character. I can tell you from my experience that if you continue to live and embrace the core values you will live a full life. You are part of a larger Patrol family and I welcome you. Stay safe.”

Gov. Parson provided the keynote address. He acknowledged the importance of their commitment and the hard work that has earned each of them the right to be called trooper. He also spoke of the Patrol’s tradition of excellence, which has been passed from generation to generation. “Through decades of honorable, brave service, those who came before you have established a tradition that has made the Patrol patch on your sleeve one of the most recognized icons in our state. I ask you to continue to advance this organization while maintaining its traditions and core values. Learn from the veteran troopers, use that knowledge, and continue to innovate, improve, and advance Missouri law enforcement. At the end of the day, each and every one of you are public servants. Never forget that. The most important thing is to remember that you work for everyone in this building today and the six million Missourians. Service is one of the highest callings.”

The Honorable Roy L. Richter, Missouri Court of Appeals—Eastern District, administered the Oath of Office to the 27 new troopers. Vice President of College Affairs Roger K. McMillian, Mineral Area College, then conferred associate degrees to 16 of the graduates. The new troopers then accepted their diplomas and congratulations from the lieutenant colonel, DPS director, and governor.

Continued on the next page.

The names, hometowns, and first assignments of members of the 106th Recruit Class are listed below:

Name/Hometown/First Assignment

Chase Adkison, Kearney, MO, Troop A, Zone 4, Clay County

Jonathan R. Atherton, Fayette, MO, Troop A, Zone 15, Henry County

David A. Beck, Scott City, MO, Troop E, Zone 7, Scott/Mississippi/
New Madrid Counties

Blaine C. Bridges, Sullivan, MO, Troop C, Zone 4, South St. Louis/
Jefferson Counties

Skylar T. Bruenger, West Point, IL, Troop C, Zone 9, St. Charles County

Zachary D. Davidson, Harrisonville, MO, Troop A, Zone 6, Jackson County

Brandon S. Fahnstock, Kansas City, KS, Troop A, Zone 12, Johnson
County

Garrett L. Hendrix, Poplar Bluff, MO, Troop E, Zone 2, Butler/Ripley
Counties

Jacob H. Hirner, New London, MO, Troop H, Zone 6, Andrew/Buchanan
Counties

Duncan Hughes, Jefferson City, MO, Troop H, Zone 5, Andrew/Buchanan
Counties

Jacob S. Huskey, Crestwood, MO, Troop C, Zone 3, South St. Louis/
Jefferson Counties

Gavin C. Leach, Owensville, MO, Troop I, Zone 3, Crawford County

Taylor K. Leftwich, Palmyra, MO, Troop A, Zone 5, Ray/Carroll Counties

Robert A. Martinez, Hartsburg, MO, Troop A, Zone 8, Lafayette County

Michael T. McCoy, Jefferson City, MO, Troop C, Zone 4, South St. Louis/
Jefferson Counties

Casey M. McDonald, Blue Springs, MO, Troop A, Zone 3, Clay County

Caleb M. Morgan, Piedmont, MO, Troop E, Zone 1, Butler/Ripley
Counties

Tyler A. Pierson, Rushville, MO, Troop H, Zone 6, Andrew/Buchanan
Counties

Bryce T. Quiring, Chillicothe, MO, Troop H, Zone 7, Clinton/Caldwell
Counties

Thomas A. Reents, Litchfield, IL, Troop C, Zone 9, St. Charles County

Randall W. Rosenthal, Conway, MO, Troop A, Zone 16, Benton County

Austin L. Royster, Monett, MO, Troop A, Zone 12, Johnson County

Tristan M. Royster, Carthage, MO, Troop H, Zone 8, Clinton/Caldwell
Counties

Tyler J. Straatmann, Villa Ridge, MO, Troop C, Zone 3, South St. Louis/
Jefferson Counties

Dillan A. Vandeven, Dexter, MO, Troop C, Zone 14, St. Francois/
Washington Counties

Nathan L. Vines, Rogersville, MO, Troop I, Zone 8, Laclede County

Dylon M. Wyatt, Perryville, MO, Troop C, Zone 16, Ste. Genevieve/
Perry Counties

— GRADUATION

Continued from page 11.

Lieutenant Colonel Eric T. Olson, acting superintendent, congratulated the new troopers and thanked their families for their support and sacrifice during the long weeks of training. He told the audience that he had met with each of the new troopers before they graduated. "The consistent theme from you was how impressed each of you were with the training you'd received and your instructors." Lt. Col. Olson said this sentiment was indicative of the commitment of the Training Division. He then told the new troopers that only their commitment would help them face the challenges to come.

Four class awards were presented during the graduation ceremony. The recruits accumulated points toward

graduation in the categories of physical fitness, firearms, and academics throughout their 25 weeks at the Academy. The person with the highest number of points in each category earned the respective award. Trooper Thomas A. Reents earned the physical fitness award. Trooper Nathan L. Vines earned the firearms award. Trooper Gavin C. Leach earned the academic award. Trooper Michael T. McCoy accepted the Superintendent's Award, which is presented to the person with the most points overall.

In his remarks, the class commander and newly sworn Tpr. Austin Royster took a moment to remind his classmates to remain constantly aware, prepared for any obstacles, and prepared to win in any fight no matter what. Referring to this as a "combat mindset," he stressed its importance. "The more we mentally and physically

prepare ourselves, the more confident we become to face challenges. The more we train, the more we learn. The more we learn, the more we are prepared to win. We cannot slack off or quit, because evil never does." He said troopers balance their combat mindset with a smile, a helping hand, being a mentor or a shoulder to lean on, and by remaining ladies and gentlemen who enforce the law. "Remain safe and vigilant. May God watch over you all as you serve and protect the citizens of this great state."

What's next for these new troopers? On January 7, they report to their first assignments and begin their field training. When asked, Trooper Justin K. Marlin, Troop A, who will serve as Tpr. Randall W. Rosenthal's field training officer, said the first step will be finding out about the new trooper's life experiences. "I'll see where he's at and then we'll start the training."



Congratulations 106th Recruit Class! Pictured left to right are (first row) Tpr. Chase Adkison, Tpr. Jonathan R. Atherton, Tpr. David A. Beck, Tpr. Blaine C. Bridges, Tpr. Skylar T. Bruenger, Tpr. Zachary D. Davidson, Tpr. Brandon S. Fahnestock, Tpr. Garrett L. Hendrix, and Tpr. Jacob H. Hirner; (middle row) Tpr. Duncan Hughes, Tpr. Jacob S. Huskey, Tpr. Gavin C. Leach, Tpr. Taylor K. Leftwich, Tpr. Robert A. Martinez, Tpr. Michael T. McCoy, Tpr. Casey M. McDonald, Tpr. Caleb M. Morgan, and Tpr. Tyler A. Pierson; (top row) Tpr. Bryce T. Quiring, Tpr. Thomas A. Reents, Tpr. Randall W. Rosenthal, Tpr. Austin L. Royster, Tpr. Tristan M. Royster, Tpr. Tyler J. Straatmann, Tpr. Dillan A. Vandeven, Tpr. Nathan L. Vines, and Tpr. Dylon M. Wyatt.

Congratulations On Your Retirement!

Dave A. Hall
Captain
Q/CVED

*Retired December 1, 2018.
25 years, 11 months
of dedicated service.*



George J. Hollmann
MVI Sprv.
Troop C

*Retired December 1, 2018.
14 years of dedicated service.*



Terry W. Jarvis
CITS II
Q/CJISD

*Retired December 1, 2018.
16 years, eight months
of dedicated service.*



Lisa C. Luecke
Leasing/Contracts Coord.
Q/BPD

*Retired December 1, 2018.
31 years of dedicated service.*



Mark McIntyre
Trooper
Q/GD

*Retired December 1, 2018.
26 years, 11 months
of dedicated service.*



Larry G. Rains
Director
Q/FFD

*Retired December 1, 2018.
30 years, 11 months
of dedicated service.*



Eric R. Stacks
Corporal
Troop F

*Retired December 1, 2018.
24 years of dedicated service.*



John D. Berry
DE III
Troop D

*Retired January 1, 2019.
Five years of dedicated service.*



Congratulations On Your Retirement!

Gary D. Davidson
Sergeant
Q/GD

*Retired January 1, 2019.
33 years of dedicated service.*



Mike T. Finnegan
Sergeant
Q/GD

*Retired January 1, 2019.
29 years of dedicated service.*



Brian T. Hillyer
Trooper
Troop B

*Retired January 1, 2019.
24 years of dedicated service.*



Kyle D. Marquart
Captain
Q/PRD

*Retired January 1, 2019.
33 years of dedicated service.*



John A. Oliveras
Sergeant
Troop F

*Retired January 1, 2019.
24 years, six months
of dedicated service.*



James L. Phipps
CVO II
Troop G

*Retired January 1, 2019.
21 years of dedicated service.*



Deb K. Rowe
Crim. Intel. Analyst II
Q/MIAC

*Retired January 1, 2019.
25 years of dedicated service.*



Chris W. Watson
Sergeant
Q/GD

*Retired January 1, 2019.
28 years, six months
of dedicated service.*



Five Area Heroes Respond To Crash

By Sgt. Clark D. Parrott, Troop E

Troop E, Captain Jeff N. Vitale, awarded five citizens Honorary Trooper Certificates in Cape Girardeau County, on October 1, 2018, for their heroic actions in a June 2, 2018, at a crash which seriously injured multiple people. During the ceremony, Mr. Steven Ward, Ms. Kristina Caldwell, Mr. Joel Muhlfeld, Mr. Lucian Zielinski, and Mrs. Molly Zielinski were recognized for their actions. According to the investigating officer, Sergeant Mike D. Lynch, Troop E, they saved the lives of at least one of the injured motorists.

Following the crash investigation, Sgt. Lynch determined that a BMW traveling westbound on County Road 618 at a high rate of speed had traveled through the stop sign at Missouri Route W and was struck by a Ford pick-up. Both vehicles overturned multiple times and the BMW caught on fire following the crash.

Mr. Steven Ward, an off-duty Cape Girardeau County Sheriff's Department dispatcher was one of the first on the scene following the crash. Mr. Ward is credited with alerting emergency services, ascertaining what resources were needed, and helping to extinguish the fire which erupted in the burning vehicle.

Ms. Kristina Caldwell rushed to the scene of the crash from a nearby residence with a fire extinguisher after seeing the vehicle was on fire. She also made multiple trips to her residence to retrieve tools to assist in the extraction of the occupants. Ms. Caldwell assisted others at the scene.

Mr. Joel Muhlfeld placed himself in close proximity to the burning BMW and used fire extinguishers brought from a nearby residence to battle flames which were rapidly spreading. His actions allowed time

for fire crews to arrive before the vehicle became engulfed by flames with the occupants inside. Mr. Muhlfeld also is credited with climbing on top of the overturned Ford pick-up truck and breaking out a window to extricate the driver from that vehicle.

Mr. Lucian Zielinski, who lives nearby, brought several large fire extinguishers to the scene from his shop. He, along with Ward and Muhlfeld, utilized the fire extinguishers to attempt to put out the fire.



Pictured are Capt. Jeff Vitale, Troop E, Ms. Molly Zielinski, Mr. Lucian Zielinski, Ms. Kristina Caldwell, Mr. Joel Muhlfeld, Sgt. Mike Lynch, Troop C, and Mr. Steven Ward.

Mrs. Molly Zielinski, a registered nurse, entered the burning BMW to treat the severely injured passenger. Despite the flames, smoke, and dust from fire extinguishers filling the vehicle, Mrs. Zielinski, and a second, unknown female known only as a nurse practitioner, refused to leave the BMW's passenger alone in the burning BMW.

Fire crews from Cape Girardeau, as well as volunteer crews, arrived and took over the scene, but not until citizens at the scene had battled the initial fire as well as one additional flare up in the BMW.

Sgt. Lynch stated during the ceremony that both the BMW's driver and a passenger suffered extreme in-

juries in the crash. Sgt. Lynch said he believes neither would have been able to exit the vehicle on their own, and almost certainly would have perished in the vehicle had it not been for the quick thinking and heroic actions of the residents and motorists who assisted that day. Capt. Vitale stressed to the crowd that gathered for the ceremony at the Cape Girardeau Sheriff's Department that the actions of those involved were highly regarded by both staff officers at Troop E and General Headquarters in Jefferson City. Both Capt. Vitale and Sgt. Lynch noted

that the selfless efforts and willingness of each honoree to place themselves in harm's way to assist those in need reflected honorably upon each of them.

In the days following the ceremony, Sgt. Lynch received some information regarding the identity of the female good Samaritan identified as the "nurse practitioner." After following up on the information, he identified Laura Murphy, of Jackson, MO, as the unknown female present at the scene. Murphy assessed injuries on both occupants of the BMW, provided emergency medical aid, and comforted the passenger while he was being extricated from the vehicle, despite putting herself in danger of serious bodily harm from the fire. Sgt. Lynch described the humble way in which Ms. Murphy recounted the day's events, and noted Ms. Murphy expressed gratitude for simply being able to assist people in need. (Sgt. Lynch has since submitted a recommendation to recognize Ms. Murphy's actions with an Honorary Trooper's Certificate.)

Congratulations to all the Honorary Trooper Certificate recipients and thank you for putting yourselves in harm's way to help others!

Looking Back

... in the Patrol News

10 years ago

January/February 2009 — The Division of Drug and Crime Control held its 6th National Homicide Seminar. A special ceremony officially opened the Patrol's new laboratory in Springfield, MO. The 88th Recruit Class graduation was highlighted. The Patrol introduced a "playing card" initiative. Decks of cards printed with information about unsolved homicides, wanted fugitives, missing persons, and profiles were provided to persons currently incarcerated with the Missouri Department of Corrections with the hope that new leads would be generated.

20 years ago

February 1999 — The Patrol replaced its PR-24 baton with the Armament Systems Procedures (ASP) baton. A group of troopers took time off to be part of a missionary program. They traveled to a remote rain forest in Ecuador to build a school. A photo of freshman legislators during the "Legislators Tour" graced the back cover.

30 years ago

January 1989 — Trooper Michael A. Cooper, Troop I, accepted the December State Employee of the Month. He was honored for rescuing an unconscious driver from a crashed vehicle. One story showed pictures from recent press conferences introducing the Patrol's new 1-800-555-5525 emergency assistance number. The 60th Recruit Class graduated. Motor Vehicle Inspection Division employees took a photo to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Missouri's inspection program.

35 years ago

February 1984 — An article in this issue explained that the new extenders included an additional accessory called an "acknowl-

edgement tone." The tone is a short beep which was heard over the officer's personal radio every time he transmits. The beep told the officer the radio transmitted and insured the portable and mobile radio are working together properly.

40 years ago

January 1979 — The 48th Recruit Class graduated. The Aircraft Division reporter informed readers a 1978 Piper Seneca 11 twin-engine aircraft had joined the Patrol's fleet. The aircraft included the latest navigation and communications avionics as well as a built-in oxygen supply for medical purposes. There was room on board to accommodate one litter patient with additional seating for two medical attendants. The new aircraft was acquired primarily for emergency transportation of critically ill newborns, human organs, medicines and drugs, and Patrol personnel.

45 years ago

February 1974 — This issue included an analysis of DWI arrests in 1972. Members of the Patrol

made 4,755 driving while intoxicated arrests. Records of convictions indicated 75.71% of these cases (3,600) led to convictions as charged, 11.61% of the cases (552) were dismissed; 1.11% of the cases (53) were acquitted; 2.9 % of the cases (141) were reduced to a lesser charge, and 8.6% of the cases (409) were pending disposition. The article indicated this type of analysis would be available every year and would include a statistical breakdown by troop and county.

50 years ago

January 1969 — Troop I submitted a story about a man who arrived at the Rolla, MO, examination station to take his driver's test. As an examiner was about to administer the driving portion of the test, the man casually remarked that he had a black bear in a cage in the car and wondered if he could leave it in the cage while taking the road test. The examiner informed him the bear would have to be left at the station. The bear's handler was also in the car and took the bear out of its cage then chained it to the flag pole of the National Guard Armory. (Apparently, the bear was well trained and had appeared in movies and on television, including the *Gentle Ben* series.)

Be Our Guest ...

This picture was taken during one of the annual candlelight tours of the Governor's Mansion. Lieutenants Mark S. Dochterman and Darewin L. Clardy, both Troop F, provided security that evening for Governor Michael L. and First Lady Teresa Parson.



Deaths

John E. Fox



John E. Fox, 73, died Wednesday, October 31, 2018, in Citizens Memorial Healthcare in Bolivar, MO. After high school, John served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War from 1964-1966. Afterward, he worked for the U.S. Corps of Engineers before joining the Missouri State Highway Patrol on February 4, 1968, as a member of the 35th Recruit Class. He served in Troop I for most of his 35 years with the Patrol, retiring as a sergeant in 2003. He is survived by two children, three grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and a host of other relatives and friends. His wife of almost 48 years, Mary, preceded him in death. To learn more about John, visit the Holman Howe Funeral Home website at <http://www.holmanhowe.com>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Fox family.

William F. Chapman Sr.



William F. Chapman Sr., 96, of Jefferson City, MO, died November 18, 2018. Bill Sr. graduated from Jefferson City High School, then served in the United States Army from 1943-1945 as a medic. He was attached to the 79th infantry, landing at Normandy on D-Day plus six, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and the Battle of the Bulge at Bastogne. Bill Sr. was awarded four bronze stars, a good conduct medal, and campaign ribbons. He joined the Patrol on May 1, 1956, as a driver examiner and spent his entire career assigned to Troop F, Jefferson City. He retired as a driver examiner supervisor on September 26, 1981. Bill Sr. was preceded in death by his wife and two sisters. He is survived by two sons, three grandchildren, and seven

great-grandchildren. Those who wish may send memorial donation to the First Presbyterian church of Jefferson City. To learn more about Bill Sr., visit the Freeman Mortuary website at <https://memorials.freemanmortuary.com/william-chapman/3661706/service-details.php>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Chapman family.

Lawrence "Dale" Belshe



Lawrence "Dale" Belshe, 83, of Macon, MO, died Thursday, November 22, 2018, at the Loch Haven Nursing Home in Macon. Dale joined the Missouri National Guard in 1952, after high school graduation. He joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a member of the 18th Recruit Class on August 3, 1958. He served in the Troop B area for 36 years, retiring in 1994 as a sergeant. He is survived by his five children, seven grandchildren, two great-granddaughters, a sister, and many other relatives and friends. Dale was preceded in death by his wife of over 41 years, Carol, and an infant son. To learn more about Dale, visit the Hutton and McElwain Funeral Home website at <http://www.greeningeaganhayes.com/obituary/lawrence-belshe>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Belshe family.

Thank You

On behalf of my brother's family I want to extend a big THANK YOU for all the support and condolences received following the death of my nephew, Scott, as a result of an accident on December 27. While I can't

recall everyone, I do want to single out Asst. Chief Oper. John R. Novotny, Lt. Jeff B. Johnson, Lt. Brad S. Bearden, Capt. John M. Enderle, Lt. Terry R. Potter, Chief Tech. Warren D. Reynolds, and Sgt. Greg T. Curnes, all Troop D, for the individual help and support they extended. Believe me, it was noticed by my nephew's entire family! Friends like those are a big reason I enjoyed my 10 years at "D" and what makes the Patrol the organization it is!

Ret. Lt. Bob Rothrock

Deaths

Roy L. Herren



Roy L. Herren, 81, of Eldon, MO, died Friday, November 30, 2018, at SSM St. Mary's Medical Center in Jefferson City, MO. After high school, Roy graduated from Westminster College, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant (armored cavalry) He served in the U.S. Army from 1959 to 1969. Roy joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol on September 14, 1969, as a member of the 39th Recruit Class. He retired as a lieutenant in 1994. He is survived by his wife, Myrna Jo (Dunstan) Herren, two sons, one daughter, 11 grandchildren, other relatives, and friends. Those who wish may send a memorial in his name to The MASTERS (Missouri Association of State Troopers Emergency Relief Society), 5287 Hwy. 67N, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901. To learn more about Roy, visit the Phillips Funeral Home of Eldon, MO, website at <https://www.pfheldon.com/>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Herron family.

Thurman "Mike" Almond



Thurman "Mike" Almond, 76, died Friday, December 7, 2018, peacefully at home. Mike joined the Patrol on June 1, 1969, as a member of the 38th Recruit Class. he retired January 1, 1995, as a zone sergeant in the Dexter, MO, area. He also served in the United States military and retired as a major with the Missouri Army National Guard. Mike is survived by his wife, Becky, two sons, and eight grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one son, a sister, and his parents. Those who wish may send a memorial donation to the 18 FORE Life Foundation through its website located at <http://www.18forelife.com>. To learn more about Mike, visit the *Southeast Missourian's* website at <https://www.semissourian.com/scripts/search/primary.php?s=stories&category=obituaries&query=almond>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Almond family.

Ruth S. Koechner



Ruth S. Koechner, 75 of Jefferson City, MO, died Saturday evening, December 29, 2018, at the University Hospital in Columbia, MO. One of three children, Ruth was born July 30, 1943, to Louis J. and Gertrude M. Koechner. Ruth was born and raised in Tipton, MO. After graduating from high school, she attended the University of Missouri and earned an associate's degree.

For her first job, Ruth was employed as a legal assistant by a local prominent attorney, Tweedie Fischer. After leaving that position, she held positions at St. Mary's Hospital and then Capital Region Hospital, both in Jefferson City. On May 1, 1996, Ruth joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a secretary, and was promoted several times during her tenure. She was a clerk IV in the Criminal Justice

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy goes to the following personnel who have lost a member of their family:

Ret. Sgt. Gary L. DeArman - wife
Ret. Comm. Oper. Rosie M. Butterfield - husband
Ret. Cpl. Melvin E. Moyers - wife
Ret. Comm. Oper. III David C. Moyers - mother
CDL Exam. Kendra D. Cox (E) - father-in-law

CDL Exam. F. Scott Michaels (B) - grandfather
Cpl. R. Scott Miller (F) - father
Cpl. Larry A. Turner (Q/GD) - father-in-law
Ret. Desig. Prin. Asst. Jeanette M. Muller - mother
Cpl. Joel E. Givens (D) - grandmother

Tpr. Travis E. Bigler - father
Clerk Typist III Megan Long (E) - grandmother
Ret. Sgt. Clint T. Carlyle - wife
Lt. Amy E. Beaton (E) - father
Asst. Chief Oper. John B. Beaton (E) - father-in-law

– Koechner

Continued from page 18.

Information Services Division at the time of her death.

Ruth was devoted to her church and was very involved in all activities there. She gave of her talents and funds generously to local churches and Catholic charities. She played the

guitar and sang and joined with other musicians to perform at churches in the area. She loved to travel and visited many interesting places, including Mexico and the Holy Land.

Ruth was extremely attached to her nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and great-nephews. They, in turn, all adored their Aunt Ruth.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, Louis J. and Gertrude M. Koechner. She is survived by her sisters: Donna Lee Rice (and her husband, Harold Wayne), of Hartsburg, MO, and Peggy Lou Frederick (and

her husband, Larry J.), of Boonville, MO; eight nieces and nephews; numerous great nieces and nephews; and other family members and friends.

A mass of Christian burial took place January 3, 2019, at St. Andrew Catholic Church in Tipton, MO, with burial immediately following at St. Andrew Catholic Cemetery. The Meisenheimer Funeral Home handled the arrangements. Online condolences may be submitted at [www/meisenheimer-funeralhome.com](http://www.meisenheimer-funeralhome.com). The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Koechner family.

Cpl. Jay Sampietro Jr. Toy Drive Brightens The Holidays

By: Sgt. Jason M. Pace, Troop D

The Missouri State Highway Patrol, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, the Children's Miracle Network of Cox Health, PolyFab, and Murphy-Hoffman Company (MHC) joined the citizens they serve to make the 12th Annual Corporal John A. "Jay" Sampietro Jr. Toy Drive a huge success. The toy collection, which began on November 21 and concluded on December 19, 2018, resulted in an overwhelming response of donated toys. Additionally, a generous monetary donation from retired Sergeant Al and Mrs. Susie Raetz resulted in a children's NICU patient room at the Cox South Hospital being dedicated in Cpl. Sampietro's memory.

The purpose of the annual toy drive is twofold. First, it is in remembrance of Cpl. Sampietro Jr., who died in the line of duty on August 17, 2005. Secondly, the toy drive is designed to brighten the holiday for children who are forced to spend the Christmas season in the hospital due to illness. Troopers, members of the Sampietro family, and representatives from the Children's Miracle Network and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts personally delivered a portion of the donated toys to the children in the Cox Health Pediatric Unit in Springfield. The remaining toys were given to the Children's Miracle Network of Cox Health for future distribution.

"The boys and I have always been involved with the toy drive since we started it in 2006," said Mrs. Jennifer Sampietro-Zacher. "The boys get to pick out the age appropriate toys for

the kids we deliver to and they really enjoy that. After the Christmas season, the remaining toys we collected are distributed throughout the year, so every child that gets admitted receives a toy."

Cpl. Sampietro's death left a huge void in the lives of his family, friends, and co-workers. This toy drive has proven to be a great way to honor his memory and bring a little bit of joy and happiness to sick children who are in the hospital during the Christmas holidays.

"It's been a long road, especially in the early years with the boys when they were four years old and nine months old," said Mrs. Sampietro-Zacher. "Our lives completely changed and I had to learn how to be the only parent raising two children, and dealing

with grief and the loss of Jay. It's my commitment to Jay that I will always keep his memory, and his love and life will always live through me and the boys. I have made it my priority to make sure the boys always know their dad, who he was, and how much he loved them. I think the toy drive helps during the holidays, because it keeps their dad in Christmas. It also shows the boys the art of giving and it's something good that came out of something bad. Jay was a good man, a family man, and he loved me and the boys with all his heart. We love and miss him every single day."



The 2018 Cpl. John A. "Jay" Sampietro Jr. Toy Drive was a resounding success! Thank you to everyone who participated or donated.



Mrs. Jennifer Sampietro-Zacher and Sgt. Jason Pace, Troop D, present a stuffed dog to a young patient during the 12th Annual Cpl. John A. "Jay" Sampietro Jr. Toy Drive.

Recruiting: 1-800-796-7000 • Email: mshppied@mshp.dps.mo.gov • Home Page: <http://www.mshp.dps.mo.gov>  www.facebook.com/motrooper
 @MSHPTrooperGHQ @MSHPTrooperA @MSHPTrooperB @MSHPTrooperC @MSHPTrooperD @MSHPTrooperE @MSHPTrooperF
@MSHPTrooperG @MSHPTrooperH @MSHPTrooperI @MSHPTrooperDDCC @MSHPColonel @MSHPRecruiting

OPERATION T.O.Y.S.: SMILES FOR THE SEASON

Operation T.O.Y.S. 2018 took place Saturday, December 15, 2018. Volunteers from Troop F and General Headquarters met at Lincoln University's Jason Gymnasium to pick up a child for the event. A sincere thank you to the employees who volunteered, and the Missouri State Troopers' Association (Troop F Chapter, GHQ Chapter, and Command Chapter) which

sponsored the event. The officers transported their young charge to a Jefferson City, MO, Walmart to shop. Enjoy these pictures from the event!



Cpl. Matthew T. Halford, Troop F, and his Operation T.O.Y.S. buddy make a plan.



Capt. Corey J. Schoeneberg, Q/FOB, and Special Asst. Lynn M. Stegeman, Q/PSD, worked as a team during this youngster's shopping trip.



This young man was jubilant after choosing a new bicycle.



The Patrols Operation T.O.Y.S 2018 was a success!



Lt. Thad M. Wilson, Q/GSD, helped his shopping buddy pick out Matchbox cars, Paw Patrol toys, and puzzles. "I appreciate the positive experience this event provides for the children to interact with law enforcement, as well as the opportunity to support the community," said Lt. Wilson, who has volunteered in previous years.